

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed July 26, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 5-10, 13-21, and 25-35 have been amended. Specifically, claims 1, 25, and 35 have been amended as supported by, for example, FIGS. 2-4 of the application and the related description on page 7, lines 29-31 and page 8, lines 1-14 of the current specification. Claims 5-10 and 13-20 have been editorially amended for clarification purposes. Claim 21 has been amended as supported by for example, FIGS. 2, 3, and 5 of the application and the related description on page 8, lines 17-28 and page 9, lines 1-13 of the current specification. Claims 26-34 have been editorially amended for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-37 are currently pending.

Election/Restrictions

The Office Action states that claims 5, 6, 14-19, 28-30, and 32-34 have been withdrawn from further consideration. The Applicant respectfully requests to leave claims 5, 6, 14-19, 28-30, and 32-34 pending in the application for allowance along with the generic claims from which they depend.

Specification

The Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive and that a new title is required that is more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title has been amended accordingly as seen in the Amendments to the Specification section of this paper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the first shell assembly" in lines 11-12 of claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended accordingly as seen in the Amendments to the Claims section of this paper to address this rejection.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, 10, 25-27, 31, and 35-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosler, Sr. (5062808).

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, recites, among other things, a coaxial connector assembly including an adapter with first and second ends, a center conductor, and a first outer conductive shell at each end, wherein the center conductors of each end are electrically connected and the first outer conductive shells of each end are electrically connected, and the center conductors are electrically isolated from the first outer conductive shells, the connector assembly also including first and second connectors removably mounted to the first and second ends of the adapter, respectively, the first and second connectors each including first and second ends, the second ends of the first and second connectors adapted to engage the first and second ends of the adapter, respectively, and the first ends of the first and second connectors adapted to mate with first and second coaxial cable connectors that are terminated to cables, respectively.

Unlike the invention of claim 1, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest a coaxial connector assembly that has first and second connectors removably mounted to first and second ends of an adapter, respectively, wherein the first connector is adapted to mate with a first coaxial cable connector that is terminated to a cable and wherein the second connector is adapted to mate with a second coaxial cable that is terminated to a cable.

The adapter in Hosler is one commonly found in the prior art that is made to interconnect two cables terminated with unmatable connectors. The assembly in Hosler fails to disclose or suggest an adapter that has two removable connectors wherein those connectors are adapted to interconnect two cables that are themselves terminated with connectors. The assembly in Hosler shows just the two cable connectors (200, 300) terminated to cables and lacks the extra removable connectors featured in claim 1 that mate with the connectors terminated to cables.

The invention of claim 1 enables either of the two connectors of the assembly to be removed from the adapter structure and interchanged with another style or gender of connector whereas the assembly in Hosler includes a premade adapter that is made for interconnecting two

specific connectors terminated to cables. In the assembly of Hosler, if one of the two interconnected cables were to be replaced by a cable terminated with a different connector than the ones originally interconnected, then a different adapter would be needed to accept the third cable.

In contrast, the adapter featured in claim 1 allows removability of the mounted connectors from the adapter and allows their replaceability such that the assembly is not limited to interconnecting two distinct cables. Thus, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1 and claim 1 is patentable over Hosler for at least this reason.

Claims 2-4 and 7 depend from and further modify independent claim 1, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 1.

Claim 10

Claim 10, as amended, recites, among other things, a coaxial connector assembly including an adapter with first and second ends, a center conductor, and a first outer conductive shell at each end, wherein the center conductors of each end are electrically connected and the first outer conductive shells of each end are electrically connected, and the center conductors are electrically isolated from the first outer conductive shells, the coaxial connector assembly also including a first connector removably mounted to the adapter about the first outer conductive shell at the first end of the adapter, the first connector including a first center conductor electrically connected to the center conductor of the first end of the adapter, a first conductive front shell electrically connected to the first outer conductive shell of the first end of the adapter, and a first insulator mounted between and electrically isolating the first center conductor and the first conductive front shell, the first connector including a first end and a second end, the second end of the first connector adapted to releasably engage the first end of the adapter and the first end of the first connector adapted to mate with a first coaxial connector terminated to a cable, the coaxial connector assembly also including a second connector removably mounted to the adapter about the first outer conductive shell at the second end of the adapter, the second connector including a second center conductor electrically connected to the center conductor of the second end of the adapter, a second conductive front shell electrically connected to the first outer conductive shell of the second end of the adapter, and a second insulator mounted between and electrically isolating the second center conductor and the second conductive front shell, the

second connector including a first end and a second end, the second end of the second connector adapted to releasably engage the second end of the adapter and the first end of the second connector adapted to mate with a second coaxial connector terminated to a cable.

As discussed above in the discussion regarding claim 1, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest first and second connectors removably mounted to the adapter wherein the first and second connectors are themselves adapted to mate with first and second coaxial connectors terminated to cables. Hosler just shows an adapter for interconnecting the two cable connectors (200, 300) terminated to cables and lacks the extra removable connectors featured in claim 10 that mate with the connectors terminated to cables. Thus, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 10 and claim 10 is patentable over Hosler for at least this reason.

Claim 25

Claim 25, as amended, recites, among other things, a triaxial cable connector system including an adapter with first and second ends and first and second connectors selectively releasably mounted to the first and second ends of the adapter, respectively, wherein each of the first and second connectors include a first and a second end, wherein the second ends of the first and second connectors are adapted to engaged the first and second ends of the adapter, respectively and wherein the first ends of the first and second connectors are adapted to mate with first and second coaxial cable connectors terminated to a cable, respectively, each of the first and second connectors also including a front shell assembly including a conductive front shell and a center conductor mounted within and electrically isolated from the conductive front shell by a center conductor insulator, an outer insulator positioned about the front shell assembly, and a conductive outer body positioned about the outer insulator and electrically isolated from the front shell assembly, wherein the first connector defines a first connector gender and style and the second connector defines a second connector gender and style, the triaxial cable connector system also including a third connector with a front shell assembly including a conductive front shell and a center conductor mounted within and electrically isolated from the conductive front shell by a center conductor insulator, an outer insulator positioned about the front shell assembly, and a conductive outer body positioned about the outer insulator and electrically isolated from the front shell assembly, wherein the third connector defines a third connector gender and style, wherein the center conductors of the first and second connectors are

electrically connected, the front shells of the first and second connectors are electrically connected, and the conductive outer bodies of the first and second connectors are electrically connected, and wherein either of the first or the second connector may be removed from the adapter and replaced with the third connector so that the center conductor of the third connector becomes electrically connected to the center conductor of either the first or the second connector, the front shell of the third connector becomes electrically connected to the front shell of either the first or the second connector, and the conductive outer body of the third connector becomes electrically connected to the conductive outer body of either the first or the second connector.

As discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 10, unlike the invention of claim 25, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest first and second connectors removably mounted to the adapter wherein the first and second connectors are themselves adapted to mate with first and second coaxial connectors terminated to cables. The assembly in Hosler includes a premade adapter that is made for interconnecting two specific connectors terminated to cables. The assembly in Hosler does not allow the removability and the replaceability of the two connectors that mate with the connectors terminated to the cables. Thus, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 25 and claim 25 is patentable over Hosler for at least this reason.

Claims 26, 27, and 31 depend from and further modify independent claim 25, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 25.

Claim 35

Claim 35, as amended, recites, among other things, a method of assembling a triaxial cable connector adapter comprising the steps of providing an adapter housing with first and second ends; selecting a first connector of a first gender selected from a plurality of genders and a first style selected from a plurality of styles, wherein the first connector has first and second ends, the second end of the first connector being adapted to engage the first end of the adapter and a first end of the first connector being adapted to mate with a first coaxial cable connector terminated to a cable; removably mounting the first connector to the first end of the adapter housing; selecting a second connector of a second gender selected from a plurality of genders and a second style selected from a plurality of styles, wherein the second connector has first and second ends, the second end of the second connector being adapted to engage the second end of the adapter and a first end of the second connector being adapted to mate with a second coaxial

cable connector terminated to a cable; and removably mounting the second connector to the second end of the adapter housing.

As discussed above, unlike the invention of claim 35, Hosler does not disclose or suggest a method of assembling a triaxial cable connector adapter wherein a first connector that has one end adapted to mate with a cable connector terminated to a cable is removably mounted on a first end of the adapter and wherein a second connector that has an end adapted to mate with a cable connector terminated to a cable is removably mounted on a second end of the adapter. The adapter in Hosler is a premade adapter for interconnecting two specific cables terminated with connectors and does not disclose or suggest removable connectors which are themselves adapted for connecting with connectors terminated on cables. Thus, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 35 and claim 35 is patentable over Hosler for at least this reason.

Claims 36 and 37 depend from and further modify independent claim 35, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 35.

Thus, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection over claims 1-4, 7, 10, 25-27, 31, and 35-37 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 8-9 and 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mason (5223673).

The Applicant would like to respectfully point out that in the Office Action, on page 4, although the obviousness rejection over claims 8-9 and 21-24 has been made over the Mason reference (5223673), the specific discussion regarding the rejection refers to Hosler, not Mason. Therefore, the Applicant is under the assumption that the obviousness rejection has been made over Hosler and not Mason, and will address the rejection accordingly.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from and further modify independent claim 1, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified above with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 21, claim 21, as amended, recites, among other things, a coaxial connector adapter comprising a central housing defining a central axial opening with a first end and a second end, an outer portion of the central housing proximate each end threaded to receive

a conductive outer body that is adapted for mating with a connector terminated to a cable, an outer insulator mounted within the central axial opening of the central housing, a first conductive shell extending through the outer insulator beyond the first and second ends of the central housing, the first conductive shell including a first end and a second end each threaded to receive a shell assembly, and the outer insulator electrically isolating the first conductive shell from the central housing, the adapter also including an inner insulator mounted within the central axial opening of the central housing and a center conductor extending between the first and second ends of the central housing through the central axial opening mounted within the inner insulator.

Unlike the invention of claim 21, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest an adapter that has a central housing with a threaded outer portion for receiving a conductive body that is adapted for mating with a connector terminated to a cable. The Hosler design lacks the conductive body that is threaded onto the outer portion. Even if structure 110 in Hosler is interpreted as the outer portion of the central housing and structures 20 and 30 are interpreted as conductive outer bodies featured in claim 21, in Hosler, the conductive outer bodies are not removably mounted to the adapter with threads. It is stated in Hosler in column 6, lines 24-28 that "Forwardly extending annular flange 34 of rearward outer contact shell 30 is tightly force fit axially over rearward portion 26 of forward outer contact shell 20 until brought into abutment with the stop surface defined by annular collar 28." It is further stated in column 6, lines 44-49 of Hosler that "The adapter 10 of the present invention is assembled of components of carefully controlled dimension and shape, and assembled to interlock and thereby self-retain together in such a manner, that assures that inner contact 50 is precisely located coaxially within intermediate contact 110 and outer contact 20, 30..." Thus, in Hosler, since the structures 20 and 30 are not meant to be removable because the adapter is premade for interconnecting two specific type connectors, there is no motivation or suggestion to include threads on the structure 110 for threadingly mounting structures 20 and 30. Thus, Hosler fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 21, and, for at least this reason, claim 21 patentable over Hosler.

Claims 22-24 depend from and further modify independent claim 21, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 21.

Thus, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection over claims 8-9 and 21-24 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 11-13 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mason (5223673).

The Applicant would like to respectfully point out that in the Office Action, on page 4, although the obviousness rejection over claims 11-13 and 20 has been made over the Mason reference (5223673), the specific discussion regarding the rejection refers to Hosler, not Mason. Therefore, the Applicant is under the assumption that the obviousness rejection has been made over Hosler and not Mason, and will address the rejection accordingly.

Claims 11-13 and 20 depend from and further modify independent claim 10, and are patentable over Hosler for at least the same reasons specified above with respect to claim 10.

Thus, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection over claims 11-13 and 20 is respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 612-332-5300.

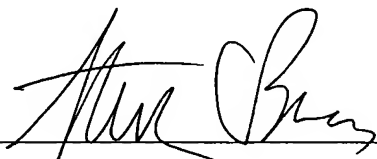
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Dated: Nov. 28, 2005



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